

School's Out For Summer!


Summer is almost here, and that means the kids need a place to go while parents are working.

"Afterschool" care is defined as child care that is needed for any out-of-school time—including before school, after school, and during summertime and holidays when school is not in session. This definition of afterschool care is intentionally broad, since kids need care whenever they're not in school, not just "after" school.

The afterschool hours are critical for kids: recent studies show that in addition to committing crimes during the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., children are also more likely to become victims of crime, be in or cause a car crash, be killed by household or other accidents, get hooked on cigarettes and/or experiment with dangerous drugs. Studies also show that afterschool programs have been proven to boost school success and high school graduation. Other benefits include character building and reduction of obesity.

The Afterschool Alliance sums up the research best: "Afterschool programs...provide kids with academic support that inspires them to learn. It helps keep them safe and healthy during the afternoon hours when juvenile crime rates soar, and constructively engaged when they might otherwise be getting into trouble on the streets, or perhaps taking drugs, joining gangs or engaging in other inappropriate behaviors."

The Department of Workforce Services' Office of Work & Family Life works with organizations throughout the state to improve the quality, supply and affordability of afterschool programs in Utah through grant programs, training, and other initiatives.

You can learn more about afterschool programs in your area at the links below, or call Caroline Kueneman, the afterschool program specialist at the Office of Work & Family Life, at (801) 526-4343. 

AfterSchool Utah! Association
www.afterschoolutah.org

Afterschool Alliance
www.afterschoolalliance.org

Afterschool.gov
<http://afterschool.gov>

Afterschool Scene
www.afterschoolscene.com